

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 066278

R 230605Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N.A.

TAGS: OEXC UR US

SUBJECT:CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM 1977/79

REFS: MOSCOW 4845, MOSCOW 6090

1. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THE U.S. DRAFT CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR 1977-79 AND APPRECIATE EMBASSY MOSCOW'S SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS. WE PLAN TO INCORPORATE SOME OF THESE, AS WELL AS IDEAS WE HAVE HERE. WE ALSO WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IDEAS THAT MAY EMERGE FROM A MEETING WE ARE PLANNING FOR MID-JUNE ON POSSIBLE NEW TRENDS AND SPECIFIC EXCHANGES FOR THE NEW PROGRAM TO WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND ACADEMIA WILL BE INVITED. WE ALSO ARE DISCUSSING THE 77-79 PROGRAM WITH IREX, WHICH IS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAMS. FINANCIAL PICTURE FOR IREX AND FOR CU, LIKELY TO BE CLEARER LATER THIS YEAR. FYI, AT FIRST ANNUAL IREX PROGRAM REVIEW WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS FUNDING AGENCIES, HELD APRIL 20, EXECSEC KASSOF SAID

THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS OVERALL PROGRAM IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE AT CURRENT LEVELS IN 1977/78 PROGRAM YEAR, IREX MUST RAISE DOLLS 500,000 BY END OF 1976, IN ADDITION TO MAINTAINING CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS. AT THIS POINT, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THESE FUNDS CAN BE RAISED, ALTHOUGH KASSOF IS "MILDLY OPTIMISTIC." END FYI.

2. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED, THEREFORE, TO INFORM THE SOVIETS THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING U.S. DRAFT PROGRAM AND WE WOULD SUGGEST EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS O/A JULY 1. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, WHILE THE SOVIETS AGREED TENTATIVELY TO AN EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS BY APRIL 1, THEY HAVE NEVER CONFIRMED THAT TARGET DATE. WE WOULD HOPE TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS SOMETIME IN FALL. KISSINGER

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